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Commission on Sustainable Development
Sixteenth session
11 May 2007 and 5-16 May 2008

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Sasa Ojdanic (Serbia)

Organizational and other matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development held its sixteenth session on 11 May 2007 and from 5 to 16 May 2008. The Commission held ___ meetings, as well as a number of parallel sessions, informal meetings and associated activities.

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 5 May 2008, the Chairman opened the session and made a statement.

3. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs addressed the Commission.

4. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the United States of America, China, South Africa, India, Canada, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, Zimbabwe and Israel.

5. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the observers for Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Iraq (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Tonga (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), Grenada (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Malaysia, New Zealand, Argentina, Bangladesh and Switzerland.

6. At the same meeting, the observer for Palestine also made a statement.

B. Election of officers

7. At its 1st meeting, on 11 May 2007, the Commission elected the following members of the Bureau by acclamation:

Chairman:
Francis **Nhema** (Zimbabwe)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Javad **Amin-Mansour** (Iran, Islamic Republic of)
Juan Mario **Dary** (Guatemala)
Daniel **Carmon** (Israel)

8. At its 2nd meeting, on 5 May 2008, the Commission elected by acclamation Tri Tharyat (Indonesia) and Melanie Santizo-Sandoval (Guatemala) as Vice-Chairpersons to replace Javad Amin-Mansour (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Juan Mario Dary (Guatemala), who were no longer in a position to serve as members of the Bureau.

9. At the same meeting, the Commission, by acclamation, elected Sasa Ojdanic (Serbia) as Vice-Chairman. The Commission agreed that Mr. Ojdanic would also assume the responsibilities of Rapporteur.

C. Agenda and organization of work

10. At its 2nd meeting, following the statement made by the representative of Grenada (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States), the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.17/2008/1, and approved its organization of work, as outlined in annex I to the provisional agenda. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — review session:
   (a) Agriculture;
   (b) Rural development;
   (c) Land;
   (d) Drought;
   (e) Desertification;
   (f) Africa.
4. Review of the implementation of the decisions on water and sanitation and their interlinkages taken by the Commission at its thirteenth session.
5. Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixteenth session.

11. At the same meeting, following the adoption of the agenda and organization of work, statements were made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and India.

12. Also at its 2nd meeting, the Commission decided to approve the requests of the intergovernmental organizations Baltic 21, CAB International and the Centre on

Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific to participate in the work of the sixteenth session of the Commission.

13. At the same meeting, the Commission heard presentations by the following on the outcomes of intersessional events: Mr. Ilan Simon Fluss (Israel), on the outcome of the panel discussions on water during the Water Technologies and Environmental Control Conference; Ms. Elfriede-Anna More, Director, International Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria, on the outcome of the seventh Global Forum on Sustainable Energy; Professor Liu Tuo, Director-General, National Bureau to Combat Desertification, State Forestry Administration of China, and national focal point to the secretariat of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, on the outcome of the International Conference on Combating Desertification; Mr. Jon Heikki Aas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, on the outcome of the Oslo Policy Forum 2008: "Changing the way we develop: dealing with disasters and climate change"; and Mr. Hjálmar W. Hannesson of Iceland, on the outcome of the High-level Round table on International Cooperation for Sustainable Development in Caribbean Small Island Developing States.

14. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the President of Worldwatch Institute, Mr. Christopher Flavin.

15. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the United States, China, South Africa, India, Canada, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, Zimbabwe and Israel, as well as by the observers for Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union), Iraq (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Tonga (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), Grenada (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Malaysia, New Zealand, Argentina, Bangladesh and Switzerland, as well as Palestine.

16. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by representatives of the following major groups: workers and trade unions; women; children and youth; indigenous people; non-governmental organizations; local authorities; business and industry; scientific and technological communities; and farmers.

D. Attendance

17. The session was attended by representatives of ____ States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for the European Community, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants will be issued in document E/CN.17/2008/INF/1.